

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising reversibly drawing a second liquid mixture over the solid phase so that nucleic acid in the second liquid mixture binds to the solid phase.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising homogenising the liquid mixture prior to drawing the liquid mixture over the solid phase.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the reversible suction means is a syringe.

AB 10. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the container is a disposable cartridge.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a syringe is the container and reversible suction means and the solid phase is contained in the barrel of the syringe.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the container is a pipette and the solid phase is located in the tip of the pipette.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the container is an extraction cartridge.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the solid phase can move inside the container.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the container and reversible suction means are releasably connected.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the solid phase comprises porous or non-porous beads.

AB 18. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the beads are derivatised so that they are capable of selectively binding

nucleic acid.

19. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the beads are retained in the container by a frit, porous membrane or mesh.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the container has an inner surface having ridges or spirals to cause mixing between liquid mixture and solid phase.

A2 22. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the solid phase comprises one or more spaced apart discs or membranes, each having holes with a diameter of at least 0.1 mm, or cut away sections.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a by-pass channel runs through the solid phase.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the solid phase has a pore size of greater than 0.1 mm.

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Add new claim 32 as follows:

32. The method of claim 8, further comprising homogenising the liquid mixture prior to drawing the liquid mixture over the solid phase.

REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to delete multiple claims dependencies and to add a new claim directed to preferred embodiments of the invention.

A marked-up version of the present claim amendments is attached hereto.

The foregoing amendments do not introduce new matter into the present application and, therefore, should not be deemed